relating to climate change at the national level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adapation and mitigation of climate change.

Socio economic areas of global warming

1826. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that global warming is set to reverse decades of social and economic progress across Asia, home to over 60 per cent of the world's population as revealed in a new report—Up in Smoke? Asia and the Pacific;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government;

(c) in what socio-economic areas global warming is going to affect the nation and to what extent;

(d) whether our ecosystems such as river-sheds, mangroves coastal zones, forests and grasslands are already overburdened by environmental pressure from commercialization, excessive resources use and indiscriminate dumping of industrial and agricultural waste; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the implications of Climate Change, which is one of the most serious environmental concerns and threat to mankind. India is also not immune to impact of global warming and Climate Change. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the surface air temperature over the Indian subcontinent shows a slightly warming trend by about 0.4°C during the past 100 years. This warming trend is however not uniform either in time or space. Some regions do not exhibit as much warming trends as the others, and some regions of the country show lesser warming trend. However, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 has projected a warming of 0.2°C per decade of the earth's atmoshphere for a range of Special Report Emission Scenarios. India's large population depends on climate-senstitive sectors like agriculture and forestry for livelihoods. Any adverse impact on water availability due to recession of glaciers, decrease in rainfall and increased flooding in certain pockets would threaten food security, cause die back of natural ecosystems including species that sustain the livelihood of rural households, and adversely impact the coastal system due to sea level rise and increased frequency of extreme events. Apart from above, other system such as habitats, health, energy demand, and infrastructure investments would be adversely affected.

(e) India is a Party to both The United Nations Framework Covention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and is actively participating in Climate Change discussions. India has taken several measures to mitigate Climate Change by encouraging renewable source of energy, energy efficiency, afforestation programmes and promoting projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases. The Government of India has also set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientfiic Adviser on impacts of Climate Change to identify the impacts of anthropogenic Climate Change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic Climate Change impacts. The composition of the Expert Committee included eminent scientists and representatives of concerned Ministries and Departments.